

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT #: GD-12-16-94

TITLE:

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Issues in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Documents

AFFECTED PARTIES:

ALL DIVISION/BRANCH CHIEFS
Hazardous Waste Management Program
Site Mitigation Program
Office of Environmental Analysis, Regulations and Audits

AUTHORITY CITED:

Health and Safety Code Sections 40000 et seq., 40402 and 40410.5

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish requirements for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) staff analyzing air quality impacts in the preparation and review of environment documents (i.e., Initial Studies, Initial Study Checklists, Negative Declarations and Environmental Impact Reports) for projects under the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD.

BACKGROUND:

In its role as a responsible agency, the SCAQMD reviews and analyzes environmental documents for projects that may generate significant adverse air quality impacts or are regionally significant.

In order to endure that when DTSC, acting as a Lead Agency, prepares or reviews CEQA documents that address air quality issues in the South Coast Air Basin, it will be necessary to expand the analysis of potential air quality impacts.

GUIDANCE INSTRUCTIONS

The following outlines minimal requirements for CEQA documents for projects within the South Coast Air Basin. In the course of preparing or reviewing environmental documents, project managers should ensure that the following items are addressed in the environmental document:

1. Fully evaluate the potential air quality impacts from the proposed project.
2. Provide documentation to support findings of project significance for air quality.
3. Identify and analyze the sources of emissions.
4. Include information to support the initial study determination.
5. Clearly define the project site condition.
6. If site remediation is required for the proposed project, emissions associated with the remediation activities must be discussed. If the on site soils are contaminated with toxic materials, the potential for the project to emit those toxic materials, along with particulates must be addressed.
7. Analyze air quality impact associated with on-and off-site activities which may emit significant air pollutants from fugitive dust and all vehicle and equipment exhaust.
8. Evaluate air quality impacts for each phase of the proposed project.
9. Baseline Information: describe existing climate and air quality of the region and study area from the SCAQMD monitoring station located in the project source receptor area.
10. Compare and assess anticipated project emissions with the SCAQMD's Threshold s of Significance and the existing air quality of the region and study area.
11. Identify and asses Toxic Source Emissions with the Toxic Source Emissions within the study area.
12. Assess Cumulative Air Quality impacts from the regional area.
13. Assess Consistency of the Proposed Project with the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and other applicable plans.
14. Identify and quantify Project Alternatives that may attain goals of the project with substantially fewer or less significant impacts.
15. Identify Mitigation Measures necessary to reduce air quality impacts substantially.

For Closures:

16. The favorable characteristics of the preferred alternative should be included.
17. Identify future uses of the closed sites or areas.
18. If there will be backfill from another site, include the distance between the project site and the soil borrow and disposal sites.

It is recommended that the project managers contact the SCAQMD at the earliest possible time for consultation and information gathering.

IMPLEMENTATION:

All affected DTSC programs shall implement the procedures contained herein. Additional assistance concerning this memorandum may be obtained by contacting PEAS at (916) 322-8162 CALNET (8) 492-8162.

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